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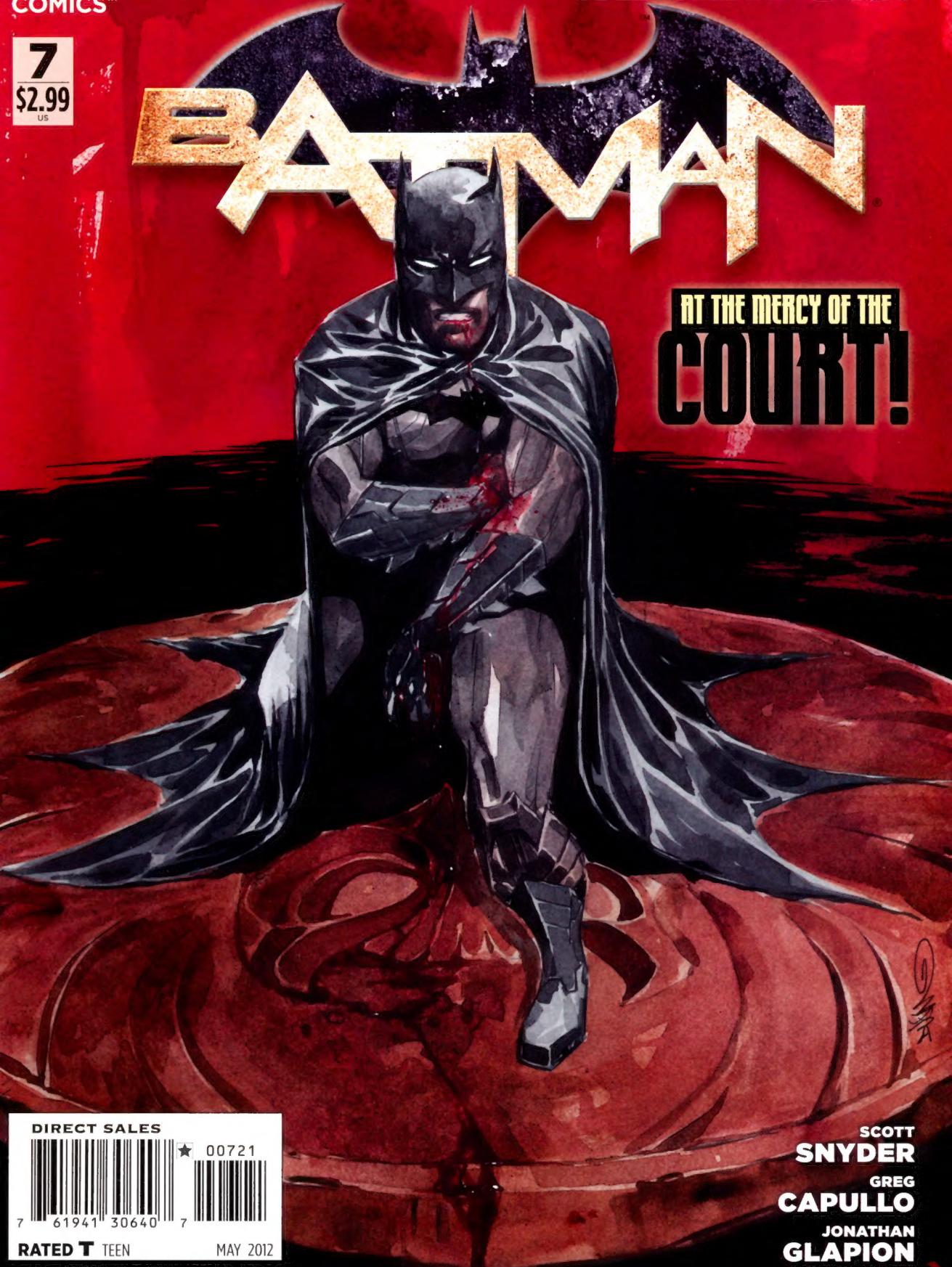
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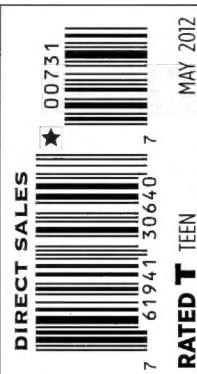
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BATMAN

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Digital Copy
Inside!

"SOME ANCIENTS BELIEVED THAT THE MOMENT OF DEATH BROUGHT WITH IT VISIONS."

"NOT JUST VISIONS OF ONE'S PAST, OR OF THINGS KNOWN TO THE DYING..."

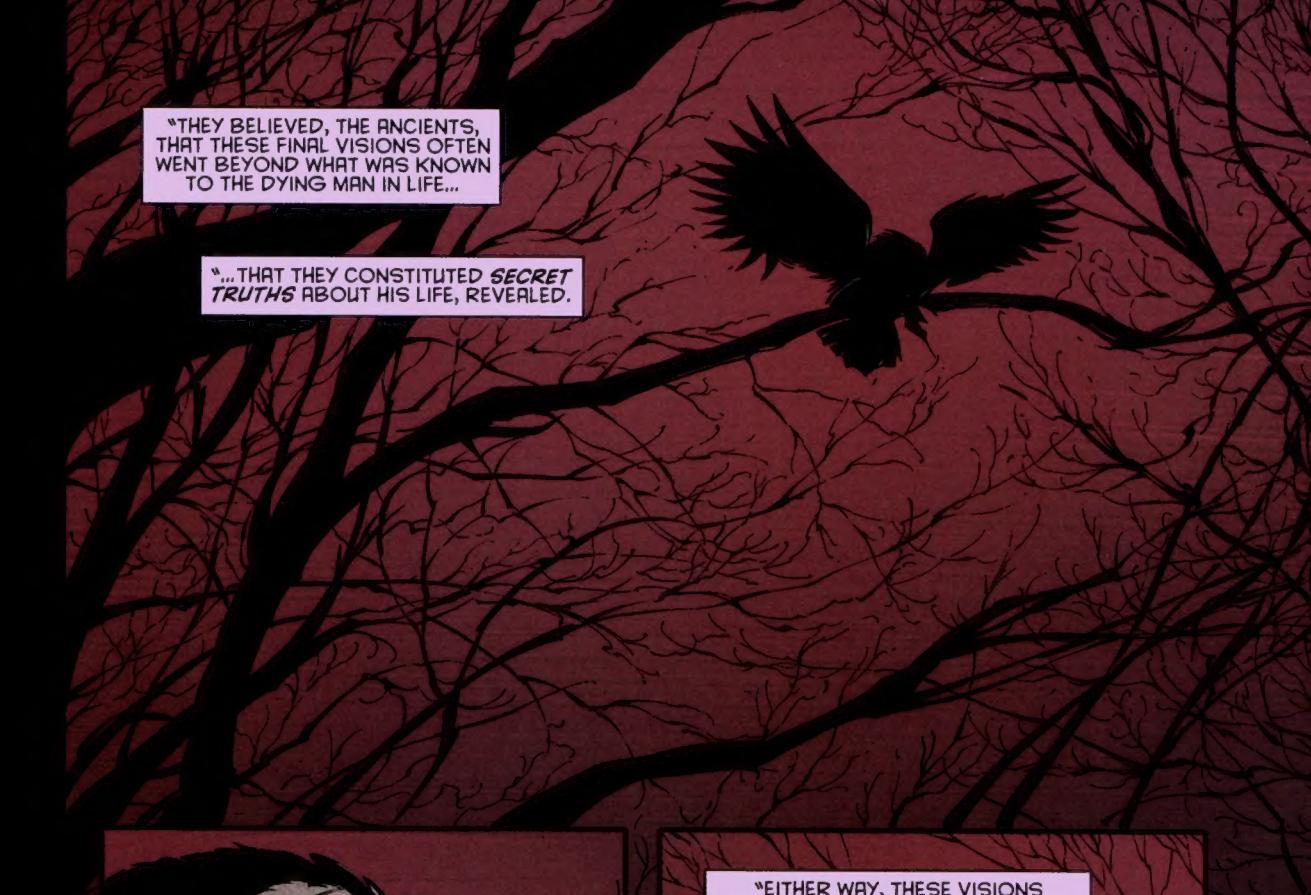
"...BUT VISIONS OF ONE'S SELF AS ONE TRULY EXISTED IN LIFE..."

YES...

...YES.
FATHER,
I SHALL
BECOME A
BAT.

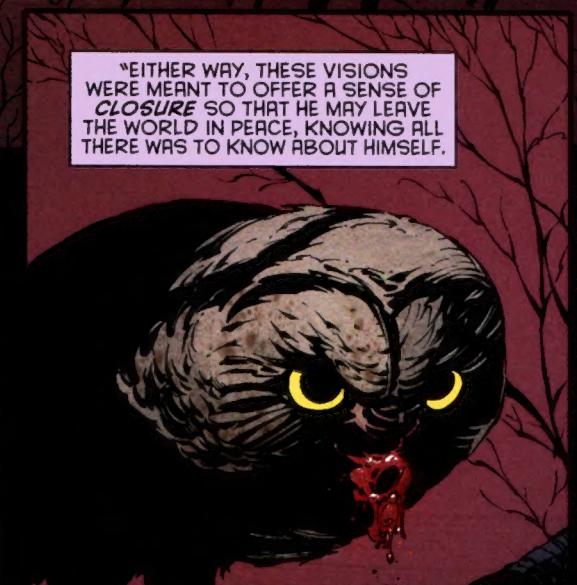






"THEY BELIEVED, THE ANCIENTS, THAT THESE FINAL VISIONS OFTEN WENT BEYOND WHAT WAS KNOWN TO THE DYING MAN IN LIFE..."

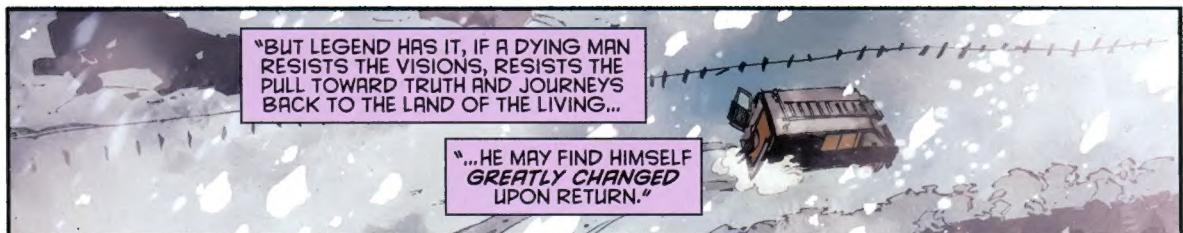
"... THAT THEY CONSTITUTED **SECRET TRUTHS** ABOUT HIS LIFE, REVEALED.



"EITHER WAY, THESE VISIONS WERE MEANT TO OFFER A SENSE OF **CLOSURE** SO THAT HE MAY LEAVE THE WORLD IN PEACE, KNOWING ALL THERE WAS TO KNOW ABOUT HIMSELF.







"AND YOU--YOU WHO STAND BEFORE US NOW-- WILL CERTAINLY FIND YOURSELF CHANGED..."

"...WHEN YOU OPEN YOUR EYES."

"WHICH YOU WILL DO NOW..."

...YES, OPEN THOSE EYES FOR US. OPEN YOUR EYES FOR YOUR COURT!

YOU HAVE TRAVELED SO FAR, FROM THE BANKS OF THE RIVER LETHE, THE RIVER OF MINDLESSNESS, WHERE THE SHADES WALK, BACK TO THIS WORLD, TO YOUR CITY.

GOTHAM.

YES, LOOK... LOOK AT YOUR BODY. IT HAS BEEN RESTORED, AND MADE STRONGER THAN BEFORE. MUCH STRONGER.

YOU DRANK FROM THE CUP OF IMMORTALITY, AND YOU CANNOT BE KILLED. YOUR WOUNDS IN BATTLE WILL HEAL.

YOU ARE FASTER, STRONGER THAN EVER.

AND WE ARE STRONGER, TOO. YOUR COURT, WE HAVE BEEN GATHERING OUR RESOURCES, OUR POWER, AND WAITING AS THE GREAT OWL WAITS-- IN PLAIN SIGHT.

UNTIL NOW...

...FOR NOW IT IS TIME FOR US TO STRIKE...TO RECLAIM THIS CITY...

“...AND RIP OUT
THE HEART OF
OUR ENEMY.”

HALT!

IDENTIFY
YOURSELF!

IT'S...
ME.

MASTER
BRUCE!
MY
GOD...

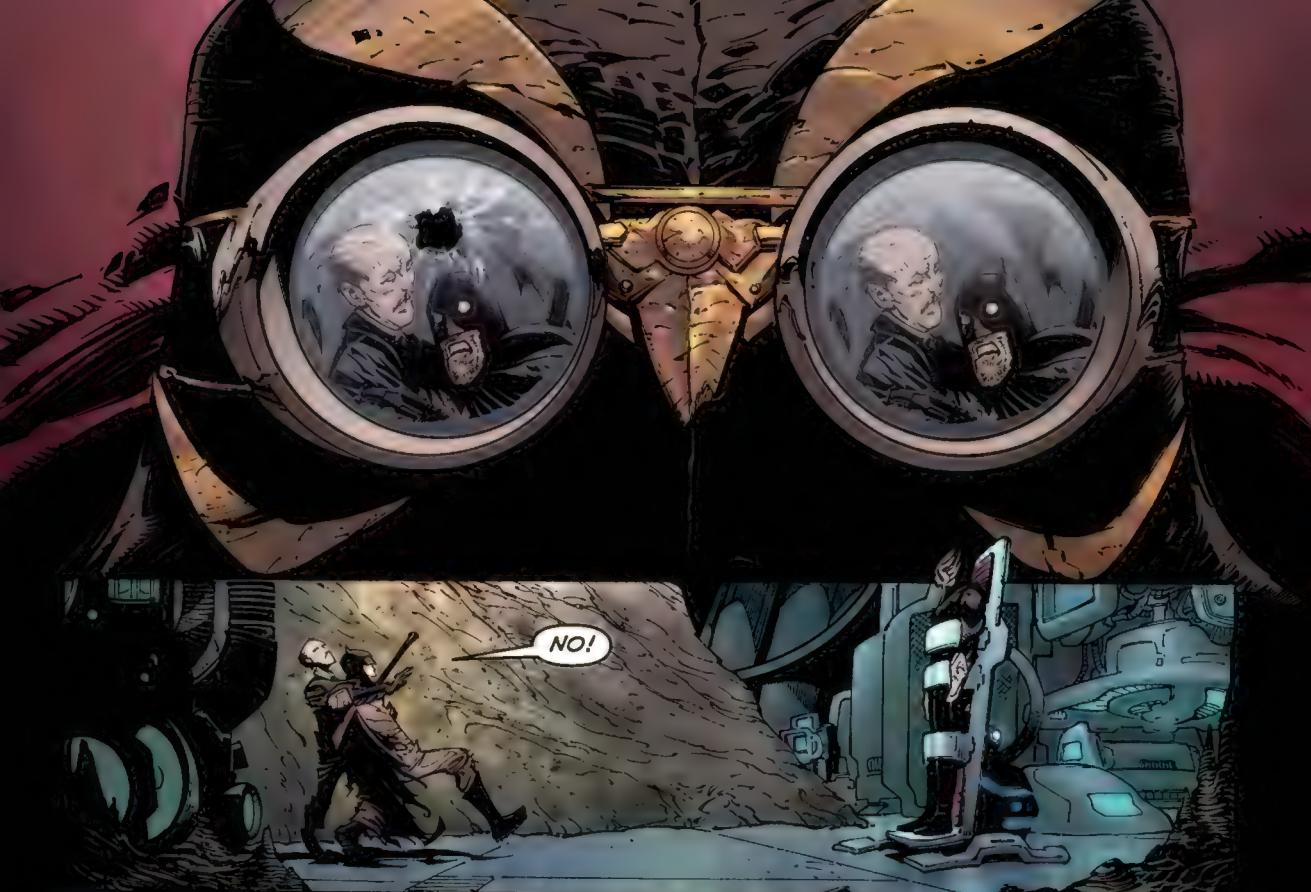
...WHEN I SAW THE HOLE
IN THE ICE, I CONCLUDED
THAT YOU'D CLIMBED
OUT OF THE HARBOR
YOURSELF.

BUT
WHEN YOU
NEVER APPEARED,
I FEARED ONE OF
YOUR ENEMIES
HAD REMOVED
YOU AND--

IT WAS...
SOMEONE
ELSE.

PASSWORD:
"FAIRBANKS"

NO...



LOOK UPON
HIS IMAGE.

LIKE
YOU, HE HAS JUST NOW
JOURNEYED UP FROM THE
UNDERWORLD.

BUT WHILE
YOU HAVE RETURNED
STRONGER, MORE
POWERFUL, HE HAS
RETURNED BROKEN
AND WEAK.

WE HAVE
MOVED YOUR
ARMOR HERE,
YOUR ARMS.

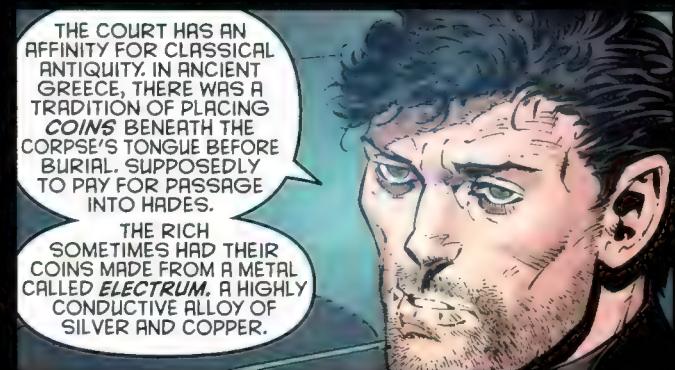
WE ASK
YOU NOW TO
LET US ARM YOU,
ARM YOU FOR
BATTLE.

FOR
TONIGHT,
WE WILL
STRIKE
DOWN OUR
ENEMY.

NOT JUST
STRIKE HIM DOWN,
BUT TEAR HIM
APART.
LIMB FROM
LIMB.

AND EAT HIS
BONES.





SO THEY USED THE COMPOUND TO BRING HIM BACK FROM THE DEAD TO KILL FOR THEM.

AND HIS FIRST TARGET WAS HIS OLD TRAINER, THE JOHN DOE. AFTER ALL, WHO NEEDS THE COACH ANYMORE WHEN YOU CAN REANIMATE YOUR STAR ATHLETE?

AND HIS HEALING FACTOR?

ONCE THE COMPOUND IS BONDED WITH THE CELLS, THEY'RE CAPABLE OF REACTIVATING AND HEALING OVER AND OVER.

WHICH IS WHY HE WAS ABLE TO WALK AWAY FROM THE FALL OFF WAYNE TOWER.

AND WHY HE'S TECHNICALLY STILL ALIVE RIGHT NOW. SO HOW DO YOU TAKE HIM DOWN?

THE COLD. THE COMPOUND TURNS THE BODY INTO A KIND OF HEAT-POWERED FACTORY FOR CELL REGROWTH.

THE WAY TO SHUT IT DOWN IS TO LOWER THE HOST'S CORE BODY TEMPERATURE. PUT HIM BACK ON ICE. I'M RUNNING FREEZING SOLUTION INTO HIM NOW.

DO YOU HAVE A NAME FOR HIM YET?

YES. HIS NAME IS COBB. WILLIAM COBB.

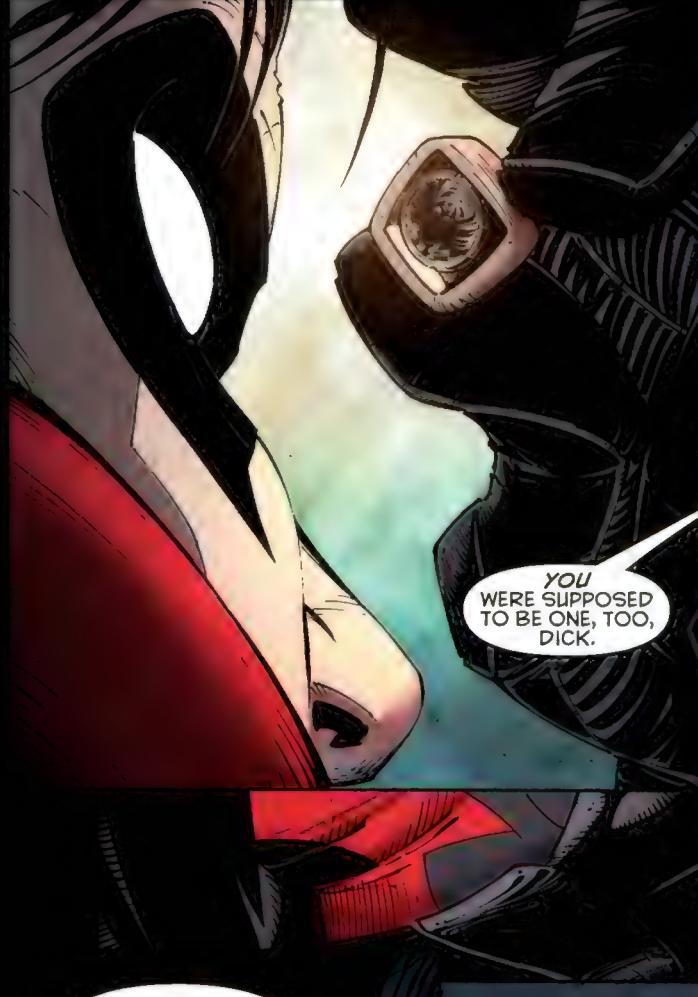
AND HE'S YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER.











YOU
WERE SUPPOSED
TO BE ONE, TOO,
DICK.



I...I WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE A...
TALON?

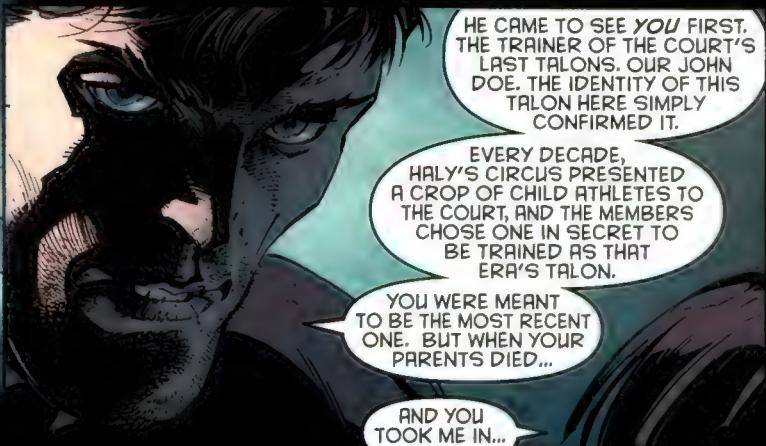


IN PRE-MODERN
TIMES, POTENTIAL
GLADIATORS WERE
SOMETIMES ESCORTED
TO THE COLISEUMS BY
PARADES OF PERFORMERS,
JESTERS AND ACROBATS.
AN ANCIENT VERSION
OF THE--

CIRCUS...



...OF
COURSE...
...BUT
HOW DID YOU
KNOW?



HE CAME TO SEE YOU FIRST.
THE TRAINER OF THE COURT'S
LAST TALONS. OUR JOHN
DOE. THE IDENTITY OF THIS
TALON HERE SIMPLY
CONFIRMED IT.

EVERY DECADE,
HALY'S CIRCUS PRESENTED
A CROP OF CHILD ATHLETES TO
THE COURT, AND THE MEMBERS
CHOSE ONE IN SECRET TO
BE TRAINED AS THAT
ERA'S TALON.

YOU WERE MEANT
TO BE THE MOST RECENT
ONE. BUT WHEN YOUR
PARENTS DIED...

AND YOU
TOOK ME IN...

YOU KNOW, SOME NIGHTS, DICK, ON PATROL, I'VE FELT THE CITY LOOKING AT ME. I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS WATCHING OVER ME, THOUGH, LIKE A PARTNER, OR EVEN FAMILY...

...YOU ASKED ME BEFORE, WHAT THE COURT DID TO ME.

WHAT THEY DID WAS SHOW ME THE *TRUTH*. THAT THE GOTHAM CITY I THOUGHT I KNEW, MY CITY... DOESN'T EXIST.

THEY SHOWED ME THAT THE *REAL* GOTHAM, THE GOTHAM OUT THERE, IS A CITY OF BIRDS. A CITY OF OWLS.

IT'S A STRANGER AND AN ENEMY... IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN.

AND I'LL TELL YOU, DICK, IF SOMEONE COULD'VE PROTECTED ME FROM THAT TRUTH, I'D HAVE BEEN GRATEFUL.

WELL, HERE'S SOME TRUTH FOR YOU.

YOU MIGHT BE SEEING SIDES ALREADY, ALL OF US BIRDS ON ONE AND YOU, THE BAT, ON THE OTHER. HELL, YOU'RE PROBABLY THROWING UP WALLS RIGHT AND LEFT.

BUT THE FACT IS, I DON'T CARE WHO MY ANCESTOR WAS. OR WHAT THE COURT OF OWLS WANTED ME TO BE. I DON'T. WE ARE WHO WE CHOOSE TO BE, BRUCE. NOT THE ROLE THE PAST SAYS WE SHOULD PLAY.

THE COURT OF OWLS IS JUST ANOTHER *BAD GUY*, BRUCE. THEY'RE A LITTLE GRAYER AROUND THE TEMPLES IS ALL.

YES, YOU MADE A MISTAKE AND UNDERESTIMATED THEM...



Writer **SCOTT SNYDER** Pencils **GREG CAPULLO** Inks **JONATHAN GLAPION**

The TALONS STRIKE!

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BOB KANE

Colors **FCO** Letters **RICHARD STARKINGS &
COMICRAFT'S JIMMY BETANCOURT**

Assistant Editor **KATIE KUBERT**

Cover by **CAPULLO and FCO** Editor **MIKE
MARTS**
Variant Cover by
DUSTIN NGUYEN

NOW
GO! GO
AND TAKE
GOTHAM
CITY!



NEXT: ATTACK ON WAYNE MANOR!

BATMAN

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

You may have noticed that since we started The New 52 last September we've broken our titles into different groupings or "families" to help you find your way around our universe. Currently there are seven families including JUSTICE LEAGUE, SUPERMAN, BATMAN, GREEN LANTERN, THE DARK, THE EDGE and YOUNG JUSTICE.

Now, you don't have to read every title in a specific group to understand the story, and the makeup of some families will change as books come and go, but we wanted you the reader to have a way of following your favorite heroes or finding the tone you're looking for in a story. So each month turn to these pages to find out what's happening in each of these families and across the entire DC Universe. We're going to be sharing tons

of cool insight and news on upcoming stories, and we'll have more than a few surprises along the way. And as soon as you're done here, make sure to turn the page to our All Access feature to see what's happening across all of DC Entertainment. You're in

the wonderful world of The New 52, and it's a great time to get to know your family a little better.

In the shocking aftermath of BATMAN #7, by Scott Snyder and Greg Capullo, it's clear that Batman has met his match in the Court of Owls. This May Batman and his associates will

be pushed to their limits in Night of the Owls as the Court attacks Gotham on multiple fronts with deadly precision and force. This is a BIG story and it gets under way next month in BATMAN #8 and NIGHTWING #8, as both issues are special preludes to the main event. BATMAN #8 also features the first chapter of a new backup story focusing on the secret history of The Court of Owls written by Scott Snyder and James Tynion IV with art by Rafael Albuquerque. Next month we'll have all the details on "Night of the Owls," so be sure to check



Nightwing #8

this space.

Speaking of backup stories, DETECTIVE COMICS #8 is the start of a feature by Tony S. Daniel and Szymon Kudranski, marking the introduction of Two-Face to The New 52!

COMING NEXT MONTH!



Batman #8

Attention, Batgirl fans! BATGIRL #8 reveals a secret about Barbara's life that'll leave you kicking yourself for not thinking to ask the question sooner. We did a lot of kicking around here when Gail Simone introduced the idea. Don't miss this issue!



Batgirl #8

RED HOOD #8 Red Robin guest-stars as we learn where Red Hood will stand during Night of the Owls! By Scott Lobdell & Kenneth Rocafort.



CATWOMAN #8 Judd Winick and Adriana Melo show us that two times the thieves equals WAY more than two times the trouble as Catwoman and Spark take to the rooftops of Gotham.



DETECTIVE #8 Scarecrow strikes with an all-new fear gas! By Tony S. Daniel.



BATWOMAN #8 Batwoman faces gnashing teeth, claws and otherworldly powers by J.H. Williams III, W. Haden Blackman & Amy Reeder.



BATMAN: THE DARK KNIGHT #8 Paul Jenkins & Ed Benes send Batman to Wonderland to face Tweedledee and Tweedledum!



BATMAN AND ROBIN #8 Born to Kill reaches its thrilling conclusion by Peter J. Tomasi & Patrick Gleason!



BATWING #8 Batwing confronts Massacre in Gotham City! By Judd Winick & Dustin Nguyen.



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M

ore DC NATION!

We're so excited about DC NATION that we can hardly contain ourselves! A couple of weeks ago All Access showed you some images from the short cartoons that take you on a wild tour of the DC Universe every week. That proved to be a pretty popular idea, so we decided to give you some more to check out. DC NATION is an hour-long block of programs including new episodes of Green Lantern: The Animated Series, Young Justice and short stories from all over the DC Universe in different styles of animation from some of the best talent in the entire world. You can see DC NATION every Saturday at 10am on Cartoon Network. I have only one last thing to say: ANIMAL MAN!

- Ian Sattler, DC Entertainment



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BATMAN (ISSN #2164-8735) 7 May, 2012. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BATMAN, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 308, Conyers, NY 10820. Annual subscription rate (12 issues) \$24.99. Canadian subscribers must add \$12.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All foreign countries must add \$12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 2012 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. This book is manufactured at a facility holding chain-of-custody certification. This paper is made with sustainably managed North American fiber. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact dccomicsadvertising@dccomics.com. For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit dccomics.com/gb/ratings. Printed by Transcontinental Interglobe, Beauveville, QC, Canada. 3/9/12.

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THE PROLETARIAT

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